

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 030747

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ORIGIN EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SCS-01 SCA-01 PPT-01 CU-02 L-01

H-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /035 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TPHDUNLOP/LVA

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 030747

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CPAS, OEXC, RO (VROMAN, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: PROTECTION AND WELFARE -- VROMAN

REFS: A) STATE 24329; B) BUCHAREST 515; C) BUCHA-  
REST 552; D) BUCHAREST 554

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFS C AND D, DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 10 CONTACTED VROMAN AGAIN AND TOLD HIM OF EMBASSY'S ACTIVE INTERVENTION ON HIS BEHALF. VROMAN WAS ALSO INFORMED THAT ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WHILE APPARENTLY GOING AHEAD WITH THE "TRIAL," AND AS YET UNWILLING TO DIVULGE CHARGES AGAINST HIM, HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CHARGES INVOLVE ALLEGATION OF FERENC BAN PASSING TO HIM "STATE SECRETS CONCERNING ROMANIAN MINING AND MINERAL DEPOSITS," AND THAT AN OLD PASSPORT OF VROMAN'S HAD BEEN FOUND IN BAN'S POSSESSION. VROMAN SAID HE HAD GIVEN OLD PASSPORT (CLEARLY STAMPED "EXPIRED") TO BAN AS A MOMENTO OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP.

2. VROMAN AGAIN ENERGETICALLY DENIED HAVING DISCUSSED MINING OR BAN'S JOB WITH HIM AT ANY TIME DURING THEIR RELATIONSHIP, ONLY EXCEPTION HAVING BEEN WHEN BAN OCCASIONALLY COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS KEPT INSUFFICIENTLY BUSY, DIS-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 030747

LIKED HIS WORK, AND HAD BEEN THREATENED WITH DISMISSAL

BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT SHAVE OFF HIS BEARD. ACCORDING TO VROMAN, BAN, A STUDENT OF AMERICAN LINGUISTICS, AT MINING INSTITUTE WORKED ONLY ON TRANSLATIONS OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TECHNICAL JOURNALS INTO ROMANIAN. VROMAN AND BAN DID

OCCASIONALLY GO "SPELUNKING" TOGETHER, BUT ACCORDING TO VROMAN NEITHER IS QUALIFIED OR INTERESTED IN MINING AS SUCH.

3. ALSO ACCORDING TO VROMAN, THERE IS NOTHING IN HIS OR HIS WIFE'S OWN BACKGROUND PRIOR TO LIVING IN ROMANIA WHICH SHOULD HAVE EXCITED ROMANIAN SUSPICIONS. HE NEVER SERVED IN THE US ARMED FORCES ("I DECLINED SERVICE," HE SAYS). HE CAN RECALL NOTHING WHICH TRANSPIRED DURING HIS TWO YEARS IN ROMANIA WHICH MIGHT HAVE RELEVANCE EITHER. ON ONE OCCASION, HE RELATED, A CLEANING WOMAN CONFIDED TO HIM THAT SHE HAD BEEN REQUIRED BY THE POLICE TO OPEN HIS APARTMENT SO IT COULD BE SEARCHED "FOR DRUGS," BUT HE HAD ATTACHED LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO THE INCIDENT AT THE TIME.

4. VROMAN DESCRIBES BAN, A HUNGARIAN JEW, AS "NOT ENCHANTED WITH THE PRESENT ROMANIAN REGIME BUT ANYTHING BUT A POLITICAL ACTIVIST." BAN REPORTEDLY NEVER ASKED VROMAN'S HELP IN GETTING OUT OF ROMANIA NOR DID VROMAN VOLUNTEER ANY ASSISTANCE.

5. VROMAN OBSERVED THAT TRANSFER OF HIS VEHICLE TO BAN'S BROTHER (DESCRIBED IN VROMAN-GILBERT LETTER OF JANUARY 17, 1974) IS ONLY TRANSACTION OF NOTE EVEN REMOTELY RELATED TO BAN, EXCEPT FOR TRANSLATING/TYPING OF MRS. VROMAN'S MANUSCRIPT ABOUT WHICH CAO GILBERT IS AWARE.

6. AT VROMAN'S SUGGESTION, DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 10 ALSO CONTACTED PROFESSOR CHARLES CARLTON, NOW AT UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER. CARLTON HAD KNOWN BAN WHEN FORMER WAS ALSO AN EXCHANGE PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ 1971-72, AND MET HIM AGAIN SEVERAL TIMES WHEN CARLTON TRAVELED FROM MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1974 IN ROMANIA. CARLTON COULD THROW NO ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON SITUATION, DESCRIBING BAN ONLY AS "SOMEWHAT IMMATURE," A "CLASSIC INNOCENT" WHOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 030747

LONG HAIR AND RELAXED LIFESTYLE OBVIOUSLY ANNOYED THE UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ ESTABLISHMENT.

7. COPY OF VROMAN-DUNLOP LETTER BEING POUCHED, ALONG WITH COPY OF LETTER VROMAN WROTE TO EDU OF ROMANIAN EMBASSY FEBRUARY 7 REQUESTING ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING THE COURT SUMMONS. COPY OF SUMMONS ALSO POUCHED.

8. VROMAN, DISTRESSED AT IMPLICATIONS FOR BAN, GREATLY  
APPRECIATES EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN THE CASE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, ALLEGATIONS, ESPIONAGE AGENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 FEB 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE030747  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TPHDUNLOP/LVA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 24329, 75 BUCHAREST 515  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROTECTION AND WELFARE -- VROMAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CPAS, OEXC, RO, (VROMAN, ROBERT)  
**To:** BUCHAREST  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006